

IMAGINE IT. MAKE IT!

Listen to the story. Get inspired to be a maker!



Photo by [Ketut Subiyanto](#) from [Pexels](#)



Photo by [Alex Green](#) from [Pexels](#)

Grade Levels: PreK through Grade 3

Age Levels:

- PreK 3-5 yrs (preschool)
- 5-6 yrs (kindergarten)
- 6-8 yrs (primary)

Description: Listen to the author of the book, *Be A Maker*, read and discuss her story. Children use this as inspiration to be a maker at home.

What tools and materials do I need?

- Computer & internet connection to listen to read-aloud story
- Assorted art and craft supplies (e.g., paper, crayons or markers, scissors, glue, tape)
- Miscellaneous recyclable materials (e.g., cardboard boxes, toilet paper tubes, bottle caps, old magazines, newspaper)

What should I do?

1. **Listen to the read-aloud of the storybook, *Be a Maker***, written by Katey Howes and illustrated by Elizabet Vuković. Children will learn that the world is full of possibilities and there are all kinds of things you can make and do to have fun, be creative, and help

others. The author does more than just read the story. She engages the listeners with questions and comments about the illustrations. She calls attention to important points that children should notice. For example, there are hints in the story about something happening in the neighborhood that's creating some noise, but it's not revealed until near the end. At one point, the author calls the children's attention to the picture of the girl with her head tipped to the side and explains that she is hearing something and she wants to figure out what it is. At another point in the story, the girl makes a map to explore and figure out where that noise is coming from. The author asks, "Do you see something on the map that marks where she's headed?" Later, she asks, "Do you have a good guess about what's making all the noise in the neighborhood?" These questions and comments do an excellent job of engaging children in the story and helping them to use their imagination and observation skills to think more deeply about the story.

2. **Talk about the story.** Discuss the story and the many things that the child made throughout the book such as a spaceship, telescope, tower, gift, music, lemonade stand -- even a new friend. Sometimes making projects can help others, too. You can help your community and make a difference. In the end, you can feel good about the things you made and be proud of your accomplishments.
3. **Present the children with the following problem which is derived from the book itself:**

“In a world of possibilities, today, what will you make?”

Look at the materials you have available.

Imagine what you can do with these things to make something special for yourself or someone else.

4. **Show the children the materials that they can use for this making project.** Help them ponder the making projects mentioned in the book and imagine the new possibilities. Pose some questions or comments if the children are struggling with ideas.
 - How can these materials be changed (e.g., cut, torn, bent, folded, rolled)?
 - What kinds of things do you enjoy?
 - Think about something that you might need to solve a problem.
 - What inspired you about the projects in the book?
5. **Share.** The author of the book emphasizes that children should feel proud of what they make and do. Encourage the children to share their work with others and talk about their ideas. Display their projects for others to enjoy, too!



Children show off the space helmets that they made. (Photo by S. Brusica)

Tags:

Art

Creative Thinking

Fine Motor Skills

Inventive Thinking

Listening

Parent-Led Activity

Reading

Social-Emotional Learning

Developer:

Sharon Brusic

Credit:

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